

## The Platonic Lovers

By Alice E. Ives

(Copyright, 1917, by W. G. Chapman.)

Doris made up her mind, after some debate and considerable trepidation, to put the matter before her confidential and platonic friends, Dexter Lane. It was necessarily a platonic friendship between them, for Doris was married. Her three years of marital experience had been quietly happy and smoothly conventional till Ada Wood, a young widow from the West, had intervened. Yes, "intervened" was the word. Doris was beginning to feel that Ada Wood was coming between her and John. He was showing more interest in her company than seemed desirable to Doris. For this reason she determined to open her heart to Dexter Lane.

"I can't help seeing that John is getting very much interested in that woman," she said. "I don't know what to do. I don't like to say anything to him—at least not yet. It might have the effect of causing him to care more than ever for her; or he might laugh at what he would call my foolish jealousy."

"Yes," answered Lane, "the world most likely call it a 'foolish jealousy.' I think, myself, there is not the slightest cause for alarm. Mrs. Wood has never struck me as a designing woman."

"I have never found a man who regarded a woman as 'designing'—when he was in love with her," retorted Doris.

"But I'm not in love with Mrs. Wood," parried Lane.

"Well, I hope not," said Doris with decision.

"She has seemed to me simply an interesting woman, very much alive to the questions of the day, and intensely



"How is a Fellow to Go About It?"

interested in discussing these things. I think John likes to talk with her. I don't believe it ever goes any further."

"Oh!" sniffed Doris, with biting sarcasm. "Well, that strikes me as a promising beginning for an affair that might 'go further.'"

Dexter Lane looked perplexed. He didn't seem to be making much progress in his office of advisor. He did not believe Doris had any real grounds for suspicion, and he wanted, if possible, to convince her she had none. When he held up the character of the lady as above reproach it had the effect of strengthening her suspicions. He took another tack, and added: "But John—why, he adores you. You haven't seen anything, have you, that would lead you to think he had changed?"

"Oh, of course, I might have known you would stand up for him. One man always stands up for another."

Doris turned away, dashed off a tear, and looked miserable. Lane looked helpless.

"I did expect a little help and sympathy from you," she sighed. "And you stand up for both of them."

"Well," said Lane, "I don't know what else I can say when I haven't seen anything wrong."

"I suppose not. But can't you see what it's leading to? Now, if you really want to help me—"

"Why, of course I do if I can," broke in Lane.

"Then, if you think Ada Wood is so sweetly innocent, why don't you suggest to her that she is making me unhappy, that she may be the means of breaking up this family, and—and—well, you know."

"You know, Doris, I'd do anything in the world for you. But this is a damned foolish job. How is a fellow to go about it?"

"Why, Dex, with your tact, I shouldn't think you'd ask. Just get to talking with Ada and casually bring around the subject of John and I. You always thought we were such a happy couple, you hope nothing will ever

come between us, etc., etc. Don't you see?"

Lane did not exactly see, but he promised to try.

He called on Mrs. Wood about two days after this for the express purpose of making good his promise. But somehow or other he failed to switch the subject around to the proper angle of attack, and came away without having accomplished his mission. However he determined to try again. Several other attempts followed without having screwed his courage up to the sticking point. He began to feel like a traitor to Doris. But then he temporized with his conscience by reasoning that before one could meddle with such a delicate subject he must be tolerably well acquainted with the person to be argued with. He concluded it was his duty to make his ground safe by cultivating a closer acquaintance. In pursuance of this laudible object, Lane was one evening distinctly surprised by a sudden strange turn of the conversation started by Mrs. Wood. She began to speak of Doris and John Winter.

"I had always thought them an ideally happy couple; but—" Here she paused as though unable to go on, then looked questioning at Lane as though he might supply the break. This was certainly his golden opportunity to make good his promise to Doris. But instead he preferred to let the lady go on in the hope that he might learn just how far matters had progressed between the lady and Mr. John Winter. But she continued to look at him without speaking until he broke the embarrassing silence by saying: "Well—why don't you go on?"

"I thought you would perhaps spare me the unpleasantness of going on," she said.

Lane thoroughly mystified and miserable, must have expressed his state of mind in his face, for after studying him a moment she went on: "Do you mean, Mr. Lane, that you do not understand me?"

"I must say I don't quite comprehend your meaning," he said.

"Well, then, I suppose I must come out plainly. Your attentions to Doris Winter are the talk of everyone. John Winter is intensely miserable over it all. He hates to speak to Doris about it. He is a man of such fine standards, so high minded and delicately filtered, he cannot bear to have her think he suspects her of disloyalty to him, but he is utterly miserable. I am very sorry for him, and he has in a way taken me into his confidence, and I have told him I would do what I could to find out the true state of affairs."

Lane was at first too stunned by this revelation to see the fine humor of the situation. When he did it was with some difficulty he restrained himself from unseemly laughter.

"Why," he exclaimed, "there has never been anything between Doris and me but an old friendship which began long before she was married. It has always been as perfectly harmless as a Sunday school lesson."

Here Lane gave vent to his pent-up mirth and laughed.

"It may seem harmless to you," she said gravely, "but it is likely to have serious consequences if you persist in this 'harmless friendship.' Besides, I can't see how you can laugh over something that may wreck the happiness of two people."

"I am not laughing at that—not for one moment," he said. "If I thought there was any danger of me taking a hand at coming between a husband and wife I should desist on the instant. But you see I was so taken by surprise I was sort of—of flabbergasted."

"Well," said Mrs. Wood, "I must say you have greatly relieved my mind. I think I must believe you will, as you say, 'desist' from stirring up further trouble in the Winter family."

"Yes," he rejoined, "I think the winter of my discontent is over," and he laughed again.

Mrs. Winter was distinctly displeased at his taking the affair so lightly, and she showed it in her face and more plainly in her tone when she spoke.

"I must say I fail to see the laughable side of this."

"I guess," replied Lane, "I'm rather driven to explain. I hope, then, you'll see where the laugh comes in. From Doris' point of view it was you who were breaking up the family."

"I!" cried Mrs. Wood. "I breaking up the family? Whoever thought of such a thing?"

"Doris did. She feared her husband had begun to transfer all his affections to you. She really loves him, you know, and the prospect of losing him was breaking her heart."

"For heaven's sake! What an idea! Why, John Winter is so wrapped up in Doris, he never dreamed of falling in love with me. He just wanted to talk it over with me for help and sympathy. As for me falling in love with him, why, I might just as soon get sentimental over my own brother. Poor little Doris!"

"Yes," put in Lane, "I couldn't help feeling sorry for her. You see, she asked me to try and intercede with you—"

"Intercede with me!" exclaimed the widow.

It was at this point that Mrs. Wood realized the comedy of the situation. She broke into peals of laughter, which Lane characterized as "unfeeling," which only set her off again into greater gales.

"I have thought of a splendid way of convincing them both," said Lane.

Mrs. Wood very innocently inquired what his scheme might be.

"If you will only consent to it," he answered, "what could be more convincing than to go to them and announce our engagement?"

Mrs. Wood seemed to think the idea admirable.

**Cruel Words.**

"But can't you give me any encouragement at all?" asked the rejected suitor.

"I'm afraid not," replied the heartless beauty. "However, I don't mind telling you that I have refused one or two men who pleased me even less than you do. If you can get any comfort out of that, you are welcome to it."

**35,000,000 Documents in One Room.**

One of the most marvelous organizations in the world is found in the new buildings at Kew of the claims and record department of the ministry of labor. Here the whole work of unemployment insurance, formerly administered from various towns throughout the United Kingdom, is directed. In one room alone 35,000,000 documents relating to workmen's insurance are housed, and even in this labyrinth it is possible to trace the name and full particulars of any claim in two or three minutes. The efficient working of an intricate and complicated system is carried out almost entirely by a staff of women numbering over 600.

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION.**

State of Missouri, County of Taney, ss. In the Circuit Court, April term, 1918. The State of Missouri, at the relation and to the use of J. W. Reese, Collector of the Revenue in and for Taney county, plaintiff.

Against

Co-operative Land and Mercantile Company, Charles S. Osley, the unknown holders of 180 mortgage gold bonds numbered from 1 to 180 inclusive, for the principal sum of \$1000 each, defendants.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney and it appearing to the Court from the return of the Sheriff that the defendant, Co-operative Land and Mercantile Company and the unknown holders of 180 mortgage gold bonds numbered from 1 to 180 inclusive, for the principal sum of \$1000 each, be and appear at this court, on the 15th day of April, 1918, and on or before the first day of said term, unless longer time be given by the court, answer or plead to the petition, in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

And it is further ordered, that a copy hereof be published, according to law, in the Taney County Republican, a newspaper published in said county of Taney, for four weeks successively, the last insertion to be at least thirty days before the first day of said next April term of this court.

J. C. DAVIS, Circuit Clerk.

A true copy from the Record.

Witness my hand, and the seal of the Circuit Court of Taney County, this 25th day of January, A. D. 1918.

J. C. DAVIS, Circuit Clerk.

First Published Feb. 21, 1918. 25-15.

**TRUSTEE'S SALE.**

Default having been made for more than six months in payment of notes secured by note described in the deed of trust executed by Eva P. Schmuck and her husband, Robert H. Schmuck, dated October 7, 1914, and recorded in the Twenty-Sixth Book of Deeds of the Recorder of Deeds of Taney County, Missouri, at Forsyth, Missouri, in book number 24, page 36, conveying to said Robert H. Schmuck, the following described real estate and improvements thereon, in the county of Taney, state of Missouri, to-wit:

All of the north half of Section 22, Township 23 North, Range 22 East, and Section 23, Township 23 North, Range 22 East, in the town of Branson, Missouri, according to the record of said land and all improvements thereon.

S. W. in accordance with the terms and conditions of said note and deed of trust and of the legal order and order of sale, notice of said sale being declared the whole of said land and all improvements thereon, on Monday, March 18, 1918, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 4 p. m. of said day, sell the above described property to the highest bidder for cash at the front door of the post office in the town or city of Branson, Taney county, Missouri, for the purpose of satisfying said debt and costs.

LEE R. EWING, Trustee.

First Published February 21, 1918. 25-15.

**DR. JOHN A. MITCHELL,**  
OFFICE PHONE 89  
RESIDENCE PHONE 55  
BRANSON, MISSOURI.

I am prepared to correct all defects of eyesight due to errors of refraction by properly fitting glasses.

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ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,  
FORSYTH, MISSOURI.

Will Practice in all the Courts of this State. Special attention given to Real Estate and Land Title litigation.

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Satisfaction Guaranteed and Prices Reasonable.

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A COMPLETE LINE IN STOCK

**J. A. WEATHERMAN & CO.,**  
FORSYTH, MO.

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION.**

State of Missouri, County of Taney, ss. In the Circuit Court, April term, 1918. Addie Weatherman and Doll Schneider, plaintiffs.

Against

Elizabeth Helton, Malinda Helton, Mary Frances Sawyer, Samuel Schneider and Joseph Schneider, defendants.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by their attorney, R. P. McConkey, and the their petition and affidavits alleging, among other things, that defendants Elizabeth Helton, Malinda Helton, Mary Frances Sawyer and Samuel Schneider are not residents of the State of Missouri.

Whereupon, it is ordered, by the clerk, in vacation, that said defendants be notified by publication that plaintiffs have commenced a suit against them in this court, the object and general nature of which is to partition the following described lands situated in Taney county, Missouri, to-wit:

The NW 1/4 of 14 and 1/2 SW 1/4, sec 25, and NW 1/4 SW 1/4, sec 26, all in the 22nd range and 22nd township, and that unless the said Elizabeth Helton, Malinda Helton, Mary Frances Sawyer and Samuel Schneider be and appear at this court, on the 15th day of April, 1918, and on or before the first day of said term, unless longer time be given by the court, answer or plead to the petition in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

And it is further ordered, that a copy hereof be published, according to law, in the Taney County Republican, a newspaper published in said county of Taney, for four weeks successively, the last insertion to be at least thirty days before the first day of said next April term of this court.

J. C. DAVIS, Circuit Clerk.

A true copy from the Record.

Witness my hand, and the seal of the Circuit Court of Taney County, this 25th day of January, A. D. 1918.

J. C. DAVIS, Circuit Clerk.

First Published February 21, 1918. 25-15.

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION.**

State of Missouri, County of Taney, ss. In the Circuit Court, April term, 1918. The State of Missouri, at the relation and to the use of J. W. Reese, Collector of the Revenue in and for Taney county, plaintiff.

Against

Peter W. Stewart, defendant.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney and it appearing to the Court from the return of the Sheriff that the defendant, Peter W. Stewart, cannot be served with the ordinary process of law in Taney county, Missouri, and the court being satisfied that the defendant cannot be found in the State of Missouri.

It is ordered by the Court that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a suit against him in this court, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the State of Missouri for taxes for the year 1916 upon the following described real estate situated in Taney county, Missouri, to-wit:

Traces, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 12, Twp 22, Range 22, and that unless the said Peter W. Stewart be and appear at this court, at the next term thereof, to be begun and holden at the court house in the town of Forsyth, in said county, on the 15th day of April, 1918, and on or before the first day of said term, unless longer time be given by the court, answer or plead to the petition in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

And it is further ordered, that a copy hereof be published, according to law, in the Taney County Republican, a newspaper published in said county of Taney, for four weeks successively, the last insertion to be at least thirty days before the first day of said next April term of this court.

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**ORDER OF PUBLICATION.**

State of Missouri, County of Taney, ss. In the Circuit Court, April term, 1918. The State of Missouri, at the relation and to the use of J. W. Reese, Collector of the Revenue in and for Taney county, plaintiff.

Against

Marie Elizabeth Lamb, defendant.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney and it appearing to the Court from the return of the Sheriff that the defendant Marie Elizabeth Lamb cannot be served with the ordinary process of law in Taney county, Missouri, and the court being satisfied that defendant cannot be found in the State of Missouri.

It is ordered by the Court that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a suit against her in this court, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the State of Missouri for taxes for the year 1916 upon the following described real estate situated in Taney county, Missouri, to-wit:

Traces, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 14 and NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 15, Twp 22, Range 22, and that unless the said Marie Elizabeth Lamb be and appear at this court, at the next term thereof, to be begun and holden at the court house in the town of Forsyth, in said county, on the 15th day of April, 1918, and on or before the first day of said term, unless longer time be given by the court, answer or plead to the petition, in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

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Against

Marie Elizabeth Lamb, defendant.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney and it appearing to the Court from the return of the Sheriff that the defendant Marie Elizabeth Lamb cannot be served with the ordinary process of law in Taney county, Missouri, and the court being satisfied that defendant cannot be found in the State of Missouri.

It is ordered by the Court that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a suit against her in this court, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the State of Missouri for taxes for the year 1916 upon the following described real estate situated in Taney county, Missouri, to-wit:

Traces, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 14 and NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 15, Twp 22, Range 22, and that unless the said Marie Elizabeth Lamb be and appear at this court, at the next term thereof, to be begun and holden at the court house in the town of Forsyth, in said county, on the 15th day of April, 1918, and on or before the first day of said term, unless longer time be given by the court, answer or plead to the petition, in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

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Against

Marie Elizabeth Lamb, defendant.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney and it appearing to the Court from the return of the Sheriff that the defendant Marie Elizabeth Lamb cannot be served with the ordinary process of law in Taney county, Missouri, and the court being satisfied that defendant cannot be found in the State of Missouri.

It is ordered by the Court that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a suit against her in this court, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the State of Missouri for taxes for the year 1916 upon the following described real estate situated in Taney county, Missouri, to-wit:

Traces, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 14 and NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 15, Twp 22, Range 22, and that unless the said Marie Elizabeth Lamb be and appear at this court, at the next term thereof, to be begun and holden at the court house in the town of Forsyth, in said county, on the 15th day of April, 1918, and on or before the first day of said term, unless longer time be given by the court, answer or plead to the petition, in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

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Against

Marie Elizabeth Lamb, defendant.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney and it appearing to the Court from the return of the Sheriff that the defendant Marie Elizabeth Lamb cannot be served with the ordinary process of law in Taney county, Missouri, and the court being satisfied that defendant cannot be found in the State of Missouri.

It is ordered by the Court that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a suit against her in this court, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the State of Missouri for taxes for the year 1916 upon the following described real estate situated in Taney county, Missouri, to-wit:

Traces, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 14 and NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 15, Twp 22, Range 22, and that unless the said Marie Elizabeth Lamb be and appear at this court, at the next term thereof, to be begun and holden at the court house in the town of Forsyth, in said county, on the 15th day of April, 1918, and on or before the first day of said term, unless longer time be given by the court, answer or plead to the petition, in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

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Against

Marie Elizabeth Lamb, defendant.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney and it appearing to the Court from the return of the Sheriff that the defendant Marie Elizabeth Lamb cannot be served with the ordinary process of law in Taney county, Missouri, and the court being satisfied that defendant cannot be found in the State of Missouri.

It is ordered by the Court that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a suit against her in this court, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the State of Missouri for taxes for the year 1916 upon the following described real estate situated in Taney county, Missouri, to-wit:

Traces, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 14 and NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 15, Twp 22, Range 22, and that unless the said Marie Elizabeth Lamb be and appear at this court, at the next term thereof, to be begun and holden at the court house in the town of Forsyth, in said county, on the 15th day of April, 1918, and on or before the first day of said term, unless longer time be given by the court, answer or plead to the petition, in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

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Against

Marie Elizabeth Lamb, defendant.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney and it appearing to the Court from the return of the Sheriff that the defendant Marie Elizabeth Lamb cannot be served with the ordinary process of law in Taney county, Missouri, and the court being satisfied that defendant cannot be found in the State of Missouri.

It is ordered by the Court that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a suit against her in this court, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the State of Missouri for taxes for the year 1916 upon the following described real estate situated in Taney county, Missouri, to-wit:

Traces, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 14 and NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 15, Twp 22, Range 22, and that unless the said Marie Elizabeth Lamb be and appear at this court, at the next term thereof, to be begun and holden at the court house in the town of Forsyth, in said county, on the 15th day of April, 1918, and on or before the first day of said term, unless longer time be given by the court, answer or plead to the petition, in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

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Against

Marie Elizabeth Lamb, defendant.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney and it appearing to the Court from the return of the Sheriff that the defendant Marie Elizabeth Lamb cannot be served with the ordinary process of law in Taney county, Missouri, and the court being satisfied that defendant cannot be found in the State of Missouri.

It is ordered by the Court that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a suit against her in this court, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the State of Missouri for taxes for the year 1916 upon the following described real estate situated in Taney county, Missouri, to-wit:

Traces, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 14 and NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 15, Twp 22, Range 22, and that unless the said Marie Elizabeth Lamb be and appear at this court, at the next term thereof, to be begun and holden at the court house in the town of Forsyth, in said county, on the 15th day of April, 1918, and on or before the first day of said term, unless longer time be given by the court, answer or plead to the petition, in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

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Against

Marie Elizabeth Lamb, defendant.

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It is ordered by the Court that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a suit against her in this court, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the State of Missouri for taxes for the year 1916 upon the following described real estate situated in Taney county, Missouri, to-wit:

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Against

Marie Elizabeth Lamb, defendant.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney and it appearing to the Court from the return of the Sheriff that the defendant Marie Elizabeth Lamb cannot be served with the ordinary process of law in Taney county, Missouri, and the court being satisfied that defendant cannot be found in the State of Missouri.

It is ordered by the Court that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a suit against her in this court, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the State of Missouri for taxes for the year 1916 upon the following described real estate situated in Taney county, Missouri, to-wit:

Traces, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 14 and NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 15, Twp 22, Range 22, and that unless the said Marie Elizabeth Lamb be and appear at this court, at the next term thereof, to be begun and holden at the court house in the town of Forsyth, in said county, on the 15th day of April, 1918, and on or before the first day of said term, unless longer time be given by the court, answer or plead to the petition, in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

And it is further ordered, that a copy hereof be published, according to law, in the Taney County Republican, a newspaper published in said county of Taney, for four weeks successively, the last insertion to be at least thirty days before the first day of said next April term of this court.

J. C. DAVIS, Circuit Clerk.

A true copy from the Record.

Witness my hand, and the seal of the Circuit Court of Taney County, this 25th day of January, A. D. 1918.

J. C. DAVIS, Circuit Clerk.

First Published Feb. 21, 1918. 25-15.

**ORDER OF PUBLICATION.**

State of Missouri, County of Taney, ss. In the Circuit Court, April term, 1918. The State of Missouri, at the relation and to the use of J. W. Reese, Collector of the Revenue in and for Taney county, plaintiff.

Against

Marie Elizabeth Lamb, defendant.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney and it appearing to the Court from the return of the Sheriff that the defendant Marie Elizabeth Lamb cannot be served with the ordinary process of law in Taney county, Missouri, and the court being satisfied that defendant cannot be found in the State of Missouri.

It is ordered by the Court that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a suit against her in this court, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the State of Missouri for taxes for the year 1916 upon the following described real estate situated in Taney county, Missouri, to-wit:

Traces, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 14 and NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec 15, Twp 22, Range 22, and that unless the said Marie Elizabeth Lamb be and appear at this court, at the next term thereof, to be begun and holden at the court house in the town of Forsyth, in said county, on the 15th day of April, 1918, and on or before the first day of said term, unless longer time be given by the court, answer or plead to the petition, in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

And it is further ordered, that a copy hereof be published, according to law, in the Taney County Republican, a newspaper published in said county of Taney, for four weeks successively, the last insertion to be at least thirty days before the first day of said next April term of this court.

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Against

Marie Elizabeth Lamb, defendant.

At this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney and it appearing to the Court from the return of the Sheriff that the defendant Marie Elizabeth Lamb cannot be served with the ordinary process of law in Taney county, Missouri, and the court being satisfied that defendant cannot be found in the State of Missouri